

SECRET

JOURNAL

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

Monday - 27 April 1970

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1. (Secret - JMM) [] and I met with Bill Woodruff, Counsel, Senate Appropriations Committee, and delivered a letter regarding withdrawal from the Reserves. We explained briefly the circumstances involved. Woodruff said he hoped to visit Winder, Georgia, to see Chairman Russell, who is convalescing there, sometime near the end of the week, and would bring the matter to Chairman Russell's attention. Woodruff said that Russell hoped to return to Washington during the week of 9 May but might want to discuss our withdrawal matter with the Director before that if the Director could fly down for a meeting. Otherwise, Woodruff thought the Chairman would want to talk with the Director upon the Chairman's return.

We also briefed Woodruff on the recent ChiCom space shot and on the Soviet multiple satellite launch.

2. (Secret - JMM) Met with Ralph Preston, Staff Assistant, House Appropriations Committee, and delivered a letter on withdrawal from the Reserves. Preston said he would take the matter up with Chairman Mahon, and spoke of the possibility of an early Subcommittee meeting.

3. (Unclassified - JMM) Mr. Cord Meyer, A/DDP, called to say that during a personal encounter Senator Charles Percy had asked if the Agency could provide unclassified information on the extent of Soviet control of "East European military forces." Bruce Clarke, Director of Strategic Research, has agreed to provide the material.

4. (Secret - GLC) Mr. Maury and I met with Ed Braswell, Senate Armed Services Committee staff, to brief him on the Soviet and Communist Chinese space launches over the weekend and left him briefing papers on both of these.

In the course of our conversation Braswell indicated that it would be very useful to him in his work with Senator Stennis if we could provide him with basic information on Soviet and Chinese weapons and their general order of battle. We told Braswell we would look into this and see what we could do.

We also briefed him on the situation in the Middle East.

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COMMUNIST CHINA LAUNCHES FIRST SATELLITE

The Chinese probably used a modified medium-range ballistic missile (MRBM) to launch their first satellite on 24 April.

Peking announced that the satellite weighs 381 pounds and is in an orbit with an apogee of 1,287 nautical miles and a perigee of 237 nm. US radar facilities are tracking the satellite, which appears to be in a stable orbit approximating that announced by the Chinese.

Peking has not described the launch vehicle, but it probably was a modified MRBM with an added upper stage. China has been credited for some time with the capability of launching such a satellite using a modified MRBM, and this launch does not indicate any significantly increased capability for military missiles.

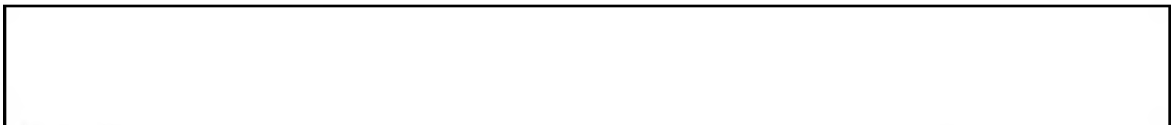
The satellite almost certainly was launched from Shuang-cheng-tzu missile test center.

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Multiple Soviet satellite launch on 25 April:
The Soviets orbited eight satellites with a single SL-8 launch vehicle on 25 April. The satellites were launched from Plesetsk at about 1710Z.

A TASS announcement released at 0809Z on 27 April labeled the vehicles Cosmos 336 through Cosmos 343 and provided the following orbital parameters:

Apogee	810 nm
Perigee	756 nm
Period	115 min.
Inclination	74°



In 1964 and 1965 the Soviets conducted several multiple satellite launch operations using the SL-8 launch vehicle. However, this is the first such operation since September 1965, and this is the first time the USSR has launched more than five satellites simultaneously.

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Thus far, there are no clear indications of the mission(s) of this group of satellites.

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